

3. Danby

3.1 Location, Landscape Context and Setting

Danby is located on the northern side of Esk Dale, in the tributary valley of the Ewe Crag Beck. It is at a crossroads of lanes going north-south onto the moor, and east-west along the side of Esk Dale. The village is within the Central Valley Landscape Character Type (LCT 8) but the northern edge of the village is close to the boundary with Moorland (LCT 1), and fingers of moorland extend down into the village. Land falls southwards (towards the floor of Esk Dale) and rises to the north, west and east. The village's setting therefore comprises both farmland and moorland.

Approximately half a mile east of the village is the National Park Centre at Danby Lodge. Danby Castle is located on the southern side of Esk Dale, in a commanding position at the end of Danby Rigg. Both of these sites are physically and visually distinct from Danby village.

3.2 Settlement form and character

The village is primarily linear in form, but has developed in a largely ad-hoc fashion from the late 19th Century onwards. The 1857 map shows the village as a few houses around what is now the 'Duke of Wellington' pub in the centre of the village and extending along Lodge Lane. It is marked as 'Dale End'. A farm is also shown at the southern end of the village. Following construction of the railway line along Esk Dale, the village began to expand to connect the existing houses and the new railway station. A Methodist church and Victorian properties front onto a small green at the southern end of the village, near the station. The settlement also expanded northwards, with largely interwar linear development occurring along the eastern side of West Lane, and stopping just short of the open moorland. A small amount of linear development (bungalows) also took place along Lodge Lane.

Further expansion has also taken place in the south-east of the village, between Briar Hill and Dale Lane, including a close of council houses, village hall, doctor's surgery, and small-scale housing developments.

3.3 Key views, approaches and gateways

Danby's valley-side location means that it can be seen from quite a wide area, particularly from the south. It is visible from the southern side of Esk Dale (for example around Danby Castle, and from the edges of Ainthorpe), as well as from higher land including Castleton Rigg and Danby Rigg.

From within the village there are long views towards the south, encompassing the valley sides and floor of Esk Dale. These views are seen straight down West Lane (which is steep and straight) and also from Lodge Lane and other settlement edges.

Topography restricts views of Danby when approaching from the north, and the cattle grid which marks the moorland boundary is also the gateway to the village. The high number of mature trees along roadsides and in gardens screens many of the properties, creating a very soft entrance to the village from this direction.

From the south, there are distant views of the village as described above. Danby village is hidden from view by properties in Ainthorpe and valley-floor vegetation, and therefore there is a sense of arrival when crossing the railway bridge at the southern end of the village. There is the station entrance and a small village green to the west, and a farm to the east, with the main street (West Lane) rising up to the north.

From the east (from Danby Lodge Visitors Centre), the approach to the village is quite gradual, passing modern bungalows and an unusual terrace of varied older properties on the right, and splendid views over Esk Dale and Little Fryup Dale on the left. Mature trees along West Lane and in the Ewe Crag Beck valley help to screen views of properties when approaching from the west and present a soft edge to the village.

3.4 Settlement edges

As mentioned above, the western edge of the settlement is well-treed. Garden vegetation is also well-established on the eastern side of West Lane.

More recent development along Lodge Lane and in the south-east of the village is less well screened, and tends to follow former field boundaries, creating abrupt edges.

3.5 Heritage and nature conservation sites

There are a small number of Listed Buildings within the village, including the Duke of Wellington pub, and some of the older cottages.

Nature conservation designations associated with the moorland (Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation) meet the northern edge of the village, also extend down on the eastern side of the village as far as Lodge Lane.

There are two Tree Protection Orders on trees near the crossroads in the centre of the village.

3.6 Summary of key elements and features which may be sensitive to development

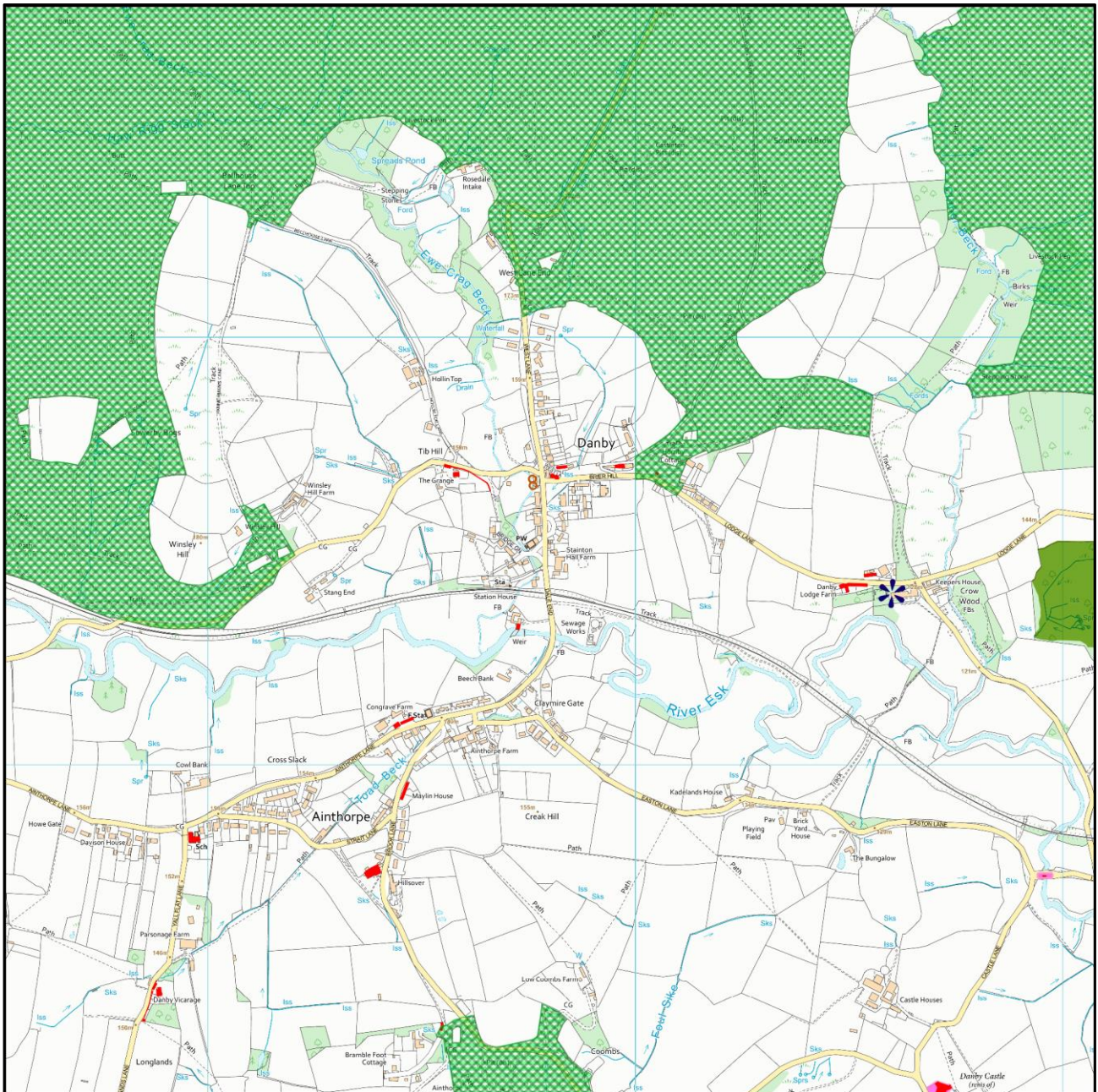
- The open moorland to the north of the village. It is important that the village stays within the enclosed farmland of the valley sides and is not perceived to be extending into the open moorland. In addition, the moorland is internationally-designated for its rare habitats and biodiversity.
- The fields to the east of houses along West Lane, which provide a visual and ecological buffer between the village and the moorland, are also sensitive. Because of their elevation, these fields, and those on the west side of West Lane, can be seen from an exceptionally wide area.
- Spectacular views southwards across Esk Dale, as glimpsed down West Lane/Dale Side, and also seen in open views from Briar Hill/Lodge Lane.
- The historic farm and green at the southern end of the village.
- Mature trees along roads and in gardens.
- Protected trees; Listed Buildings and their settings.



Danby village as seen from the viewpoint on Castleton Rigg. The linear development along West Hill can be seen extending up the valley side towards the moorland above.



View within Danby village, looking north up West Hill near the Duke of Wellington pub. This crossroads is the historic village centre.



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North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment Update 2021

Settlement Sensitivity Study
 Danby



- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Special Protection Areas
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
- Dark Skies Viewpoints
- Tree Preservation Orders

Map showing designated sites in Danby and its environs